

SUMMARY of the Public Comments regarding Thurston County ORV Sports Park

Support for Alternative #2 – providing Thurston County \$740,388

Person	Support	Comment
Theressa Julius (NOVA AC)	Yes	I support the staff recommendation and the efforts made Northwest Outdoor Coalition and Representative Condotta with Approach 2. I also understand the East Grays Harbor communities (with some persons as exceptions) would be very happy to see the OVR park re-opened, as it does provide some business to those communities.
Jeff Lambert (NOVA AC)	----	He has reservations about giving such a significant amount of funding to a project that may be considered a poor project. (Phone call)
Rep. Cary Condotta	Yes	I have no doubt we can provide ongoing non-competitive money for ORV Park operations under the 2919 fund. I believe we should fund capital projects for Thurston County on a one-time basis to get the park in shape. After that, they need to apply and go through the process like everyone else.
Ed Bushnell (ORV user)	Yes	As an off road enthusiast I am in support of the new effort that you have put forth in regards to the Thurston County ORV Sports Park. We cannot afford to lose such a unique park in Western Washington. With the growing population of Off Road users it is even more important that we keep the Thurston County ORV sports park open. Please make it public that I am in support of approach 2 and feel we should keep working with the county to ensure we get the park back open.
Tommy Thomson (ORV user)	No	The only alternative acceptable to me is to decline any additional fiscal support unless Thurston County comes to the IAC with a grant request and competes with other ORV projects during the next funding cycle. No special deals.
Phil Wolff (DNR)	----	We would all like the ORV park to be open....but we have managed (so far) with the increase in use. Wouldn't it be better just to let it go and wait until a private or another operator comes along.
David Overfield (ORV user)	Yes	I hope that everyone has not forgotten about the camping facilities and access to the Capitol Forest trail system which provides many family weekends that are not on the motocross track. I hope I can attend the meeting.
Ken Konigsmark (Hiker)	No	<p>I would urge that this "possible recommendation" be dropped immediately. I don't mind in the least if IAC wants to commit the ORV <u>permit</u> dollars to Thurston County, but it is not acceptable to use any of the fuel use dollars except, potentially, the 30% that would be available to ORV projects under the new law. Even then, this should only be done with the concurrence of the NOVA Advisory Committee.</p> <p>The law has passed and the intent is clear. Whether official or not for another month, everyone now expects NOVA funds to be allocated according to the new law. Any attempt to deviate from this will absolutely poison IAC's reputation and image with the public and with the legislature.</p>
Brian Van Woudenberg (ORV user)	No	As an off-road motorcycle enthusiast it troubles me to oppose the re-opening of the ORV park, but I believe there are more secure and beneficial areas to spend this money in this state. I don't feel spending this money is going to benefit the ORV users of this area and therefore I support Approach 3: Full Termination.
Lary Coppola (Past President of the NW Automotive Press Assoc.)	Yes	As president, I helped influence the move of our nationally recognized manufacturer's SUV competition known as Mudfest, from Oregon, to the Thurston County ORV Park in 2000. However, since the Thurston County ORV Park was closed, we were forced to move the 2003 and 2004 events back to Oregon. Our group is willing to offer whatever support we can that would facilitate the re-opening of the Thurston County ORV Park. We can come to Olympia and testify as well as supply written support if needed.

Randy Person (State Parks)	----	... one could say that the county is providing a statewide service by acting as the lead agency to administer NOVA funds for the good of users from many other counties (presuming the use stats back this up). This is the only way I can see justifying such dramatic concessions as are being discussed. To the extent that this facility has widespread support, well beyond Thurston County, further discussion is warranted, though the outcome is certainly not predetermined. Some plan that provides interim funding with mandatory long term planning seems appropriate.
Shawn and Laurie Hamlin (ORV users)	Yes	My husband and I have long time users of the park. My husband grew up there, racing and such. We both are in support of Option 2 to re-open the ORV park. We currently reside in Phoenix, AZ and travel to "play" at that park whenever we can.
Jered Bowman (ORV user)	Yes	I have to let you know first that I am in full support of the park opening.
Dale & Mary Lou Radcliff (ORV users)	Yes	At this time I feel that Option 2 is the one we should pursue, this gives the county and state time to solve the many problems, and at the same time the users can be enjoying the park. The Thurston County ORV Park is very unique and we need to do what we can to reopen it. Thank you.
Nick Harris (ORV user)	Yes	I am specifically requesting your support of Approach #2, also referred to as the three year plan, and would like to see the County instructed to take the necessary steps to ensure the park will re-open soon.
Nathan Burwell (ORV User)	Yes	My name is Nathan and I am now 11 years old. I was disappointed to hear that the park had been shut down. Last time I went to the ORV Park I had a great time camping and riding with my dad. So please re-open Thurston ORV Park.
Angie Marek (ORV user)	Yes	I am writing in support of funding for the Thurston Co. ORV Sports Park. After looking through the current options being presented I would like to support option 2 for three year funding. I believe this gives time to explore other options through the state while utilizing this much needed facility.
Jerold B. Smith (Automotive Review Editor Northwest Motor Magazine)	Yes	Regarding the Thurston Co. ORV, I understand there is some possibility that the park could be re-opened, certainly based on a number of pending issues. As someone who has used the park for several organized events (the off-road portion of the annual Northwest SUV of the Year Competition, sponsored by the Northwest Automotive Press Association), I feel there is a need to have a park of this kind open for both the public and organized events. Further, parks like this, under controls of on-site staff, provide a venue that often keeps illegal, or otherwise harmful, off-road driving in forest areas, and other settings, that can certainly harm the environment.
Mark Briant	Yes	As the executive director of the Washington State Motorsports Dealers Association, I want to express my strong support for Approach 2, outlined in your report of May 10, as a productive, win-win solution to preservation and maintenance of the Thurston County ORV park.
Richard James, Lori James, Harrison James, Kallie James (ORV users)	Yes	Please open the Park. Our family loves to go riding together. WE really were disappointed when it closed. If it does open though, there needs to be personnel working there who know what there doing and are trained to manage, run, and take care of an off road facility. The County has not proved that they can profitably, and safely run an operation like this.
Julie Kehrberg (ORV user)	Yes	I am an active member of the Pacific Northwest Four Wheel Drive Association (PNW) and would really like to see the park re-opened. My husband and I just started racing Jeeps and enjoy the family-oriented nature of the sport. After reading the May 10 memo prepared by Scott Chapman, I would like to encourage you to approve Approach 2.
Arlene Brooks (NOVA AC)	Yes	Is supportive of the Approach 2, with reservations. (Phone call)

John Spring (NOVA AC)	No	<p>In Approach #1 - I can not in good faith lobby or endorse any request that takes NOVA money's on a "an ongoing guarantee of non-competitive funding", that is unfair and NOT right to all users, who contribute to the program.</p> <p>In Approach #2 and Part II. This is NOT right, taking NOVA money hours before the new law is effective. This is exactly why people are so angry with government. A lot of work went into the new NOVA Bill and to raid it hours before hand is wrong, no matter how sound the reasoning is it is still raiding of funds.</p> <p>Approach #3. Seems like the only option left and it was the recommendation of the NOVA committee already. I stand by this one.</p>
Jim King (Citizens for Parks and Rec.)	Yes	<p>For what it is worth, should some agreement seem possible based on the three year plan outlined in the memorandum of May 10th, I will do all that I can to help legislatively, as necessary.</p> <p>Getting this facility reopened is easier and cheaper than getting it replaced, or trying to reopen under the auspices of some other operator.</p> <p>From my discussions these past several years, I truly believe that there would be significant legislative support for anything similar to the three year plan as outlined, and the same level of interest in getting permanent, long-term solutions into place.</p>
Robert Brooke (NOVA AC)	No	<p>Based on forgoing and considering the fact that the county has demonstrated no enthusiastic support for opening and managing for the benefit of the user, I would vote to leave it closed and sell or convey the property. Take the proceeds and utilize them in the NOVA program for other ORV facilities that serve a broader user group. Under no circumstances would I support approach #1. Additionally it would be grossly unfair to other users and land managers to obligate none competitive funding for this or any project.</p>
Art Tuftee (NOVA AC)	No	<p>NOVA is a grant program with funds being awarded to projects of the highest merit. To guarantee funds ...would be foolish and grossly unfair to all other NOVA applicants. If another entity is interested in operating the park and can demonstrate a high probability of success I would grudgingly support funding their effort in a limited way. Again guaranteeing funds is counter to the mission of NOVA and may set a dangerous precedent.</p>
Michael Edick (ORV user)	Yes	<p>As a Puget Sound area resident and motorized recreation enthusiast I am contacting you today to request your support for the Thurston County ORV Sports Park. This facility is unique throughout Western Washington, and provides a safe place to teach new riders and allows families to enjoy a safe outdoor experience without fear of getting lost. Local businesses have long benefited from the influx of visitors and their economic impact should not be overlooked. With the ongoing population growth throughout the entire Northwest sure to continue, we should be looking to expand these types of opportunities and facilities, not close them.</p>
J.D. Conway (President of Mt. Management, LLC)	----	<p>Would like to acquire the Thurston County ORV Sports Park and manage the facility for ORV recreation.</p>